

What is claimed is:

Sub  
a1  
5  
1. A message chair adapted for seating an individual, the message chair comprising:

a seat;

a front upper support assembly coupled to the seat;

a first support surface; and

a first positioning mechanism that movably secures the first support surface to the front upper support assembly, the first positioning mechanism including (i) a guide rail that is coupled to the first support surface, and (ii) a clamping assembly that is coupled to the front upper support assembly, the clamping assembly selectively moving between a locked position that inhibits movement of the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly, and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the first support surface relative to front upper support assembly and sliding of the first support surface relative to the front upper support assembly.

2. The message chair of claim 1 wherein the guide rail has a longitudinal axis and the clamping assembly includes a rotational axis is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and wherein, in the unlocked position, the first support surface rotates around the rotational axis and slides along the longitudinal axis.

3. The message chair of claim 1 wherein the guide rail has a substantially square cross-section.

25 4. The message chair of claim 1 wherein the guide rail has a substantially diamond-shaped cross-section relative to the first support surface.

30 5. The message chair of claim 1 wherein the clamping assembly includes (i) a clamp pin having a first pin end and an opposing second pin end, and (ii) a guide receiver positioned near the first pin end, the guide receiver selectively moving between the locked position and the unlocked position.

6. The massage chair of claim 5 wherein the clamping assembly includes a second guide receiver that is positioned near the second pin end.

7. The massage chair of claim 6 wherein at least one of the guide receivers has a substantially V-shaped notch that receives a portion of the guide rail.

5            8.        The massage chair of claim 6 wherein each of the guide receivers has  
a substantially V-shaped notch that receives a corresponding portion of the guide  
rail.

9. The massage chair of claim 5 wherein the guide rail include a longitudinal axis and the guide rail is positioned so that the clamp pin extends through the guide rail substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

10. . The massage chair of claim 9 wherein the guide rail includes opposing corners positioned on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis, and wherein the clamp pin extends through the opposing corners of the guide rail.

11. The massage chair of claim 5 wherein the guide rail includes a guide rail slot that is positioned substantially longitudinally along the guide rail and the clamp pin extends through the guide rail slot.

12. The massage chair of claim 5 wherein the first positioning mechanism further includes a locking lever that moves the guide receiver between the locked position and the unlocked position.

20            13. The massage chair of claim 1 wherein the positioning mechanism  
includes not more than one guide rail.

14. The massage chair of claim 1 wherein the first support surface is a chest support.

Al cont

15. The massage chair of claim 1 wherein the first support surface is a head support.

16. The massage chair of claim 1 further comprising a second support surface, wherein the front upper support assembly includes a second support arm that supports the second support surface.

17. The massage chair of claim 16 wherein the massage chair includes a second positioning mechanism that movably couples the second support surface to the second support arm, the second positioning mechanism including (i) a guide rail that is coupled to the second support surface, the guide rail having a longitudinal axis, and (ii) a clamping assembly that is coupled to the second support arm, the clamping assembly having a rotational axis, the clamping assembly selectively moving between a locked position that inhibits movement of the second support surface relative to the clamping assembly, and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the second support surface around the rotational axis and movement of the second support surface relative to the clamping assembly along the longitudinal axis.

18. A massage chair adapted for seating an individual, the massage chair comprising:

a seat;

a front upper support assembly coupled to the seat;

a first support surface; and

a first positioning mechanism that movably secures the first support surface to the front upper support assembly, the first positioning mechanism including:

a guide rail that is coupled to the first support surface, the guide rail having a longitudinal axis and a substantially diamond-shaped cross-section relative to the first support surface, the guide rail having opposing corners positioned on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis; and

5 a clamping assembly that is coupled to the front upper support assembly, the clamping assembly releasably clamping the guide rail, the clamping assembly having a rotational axis, the clamping assembly including (i) a clamp pin positioned substantially along the rotational axis, the clamp pin being substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the guide rail, the clamp pin extending through the opposing corners of the guide rail substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the guide rail, the clamp pin having a first pin end and an opposing second pin end, (ii) a first guide receiver positioned near the first pin end and a second guide receiver positioned near the second pin end, the guide receivers each having a substantially V-shaped notch for receiving separate portions of the guide rail, the guide receivers selectively moving between a locked position that inhibits movement of the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly, and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the first support surface around the rotational axis and movement of the first support surface along the longitudinal axis of the guide rail relative to the guide receivers, and (iii) a locking lever that moves the guide receivers between the locked position and the unlocked position.

10  
19. The massage chair of claim 18 wherein the first support surface is a chest support.

25 20. The massage chair of claim 18 wherein the first support surface is a head support.

21. A positioning mechanism that movably secures a first support surface to a support assembly, the positioning mechanism comprising:

30 a guide rail that is coupled to the first support surface, the guide rail having a substantially diamond-shaped cross-section relative to the first support surface; and

a clamping assembly that is coupled to the support assembly, the clamping assembly releasably clamping the guide rail, the clamping assembly including (i) a clamp pin having a first pin end and an opposing second pin

Al  
Conse

5

end, and (ii) a first guide receiver positioned near the first pin end and a second guide receiver positioned near the second pin end, the guide receivers each having a substantially V-shaped notch for receiving separate portions of the guide rail, the guide receivers selectively moving between a locked position that inhibits movement of the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly, and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the first support surface relative to the support assembly and sliding of the first support surface relative to the support assembly.

10

22. The positioning mechanism of claim 21 wherein the guide rail includes a longitudinal axis and opposing corners positioned on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis, and wherein the clamp pin extends through the opposing corners of the guide rail substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, and wherein, in the unlocked position, the first support surface slides along the longitudinal axis.

23. The positioning mechanism of claim 21 further comprising a locking lever that moves the guide receivers between the locked position and the unlocked position.

24. A massage device that includes the positioning mechanism of claim 21.

25. A massage table that includes the positioning mechanism of claim 21.

25

26. A method for adjusting the position of a first support surface for a massage chair, the method comprising the steps of:

coupling a guide rail having a longitudinal axis to the first support surface; and

30

moving a clamping assembly having a rotational axis from a locked position that inhibits movement of the guide rail and the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly, to an unlocked position that allows rotation of the guide rail and the first support surface around the rotational axis and movement of the guide rail and the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly along the longitudinal axis.

27. The method of claim 26 further including the steps of moving the first support surface longitudinally in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis, and rotating the first support surface around the rotational axis of the clamping assembly.

5

28. The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of moving the clamping assembly to the locked position.

10 29. The method of claim 26 wherein the step of coupling a guide rail includes coupling a guide rail that has a substantially diamond-shaped cross-section to the first support surface.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein the step of moving a clamping assembly includes providing two guide receivers, each guide receiver having a substantially V-shaped notch for receiving separate portions of the guide rail.

31. The method of claim 26 further comprising the steps of providing a second support surface, moving the second support surface with a second positioning mechanism between a locked position that inhibits movement of the second support surface, to an unlocked position that allows rotation of second support surface around a rotational axis and movement of second support surface in a longitudinal direction.